



## **SPECIAL COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MAY 6, 2013 6 P.M.**

### **Special Meeting**

The Special meeting of the Common Council of the City of Middletown was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Monday, May 6, 2013 at 6 p.m.

### **Present**

Deputy Mayor Robert P. Santangelo and Council Members Thomas J. Serra, Ronald P. Klattenberg, Mary A. Bartolotta, Gerald E. Daley Hope Kasper, Grady L. Faulkner, Jr., Philip J. Pessina, Joseph E. Bibisi, Linda Salafia, Todd G. Berch, and Deborah Kleckowski; Sergeant-at-arms Police Chief William McKenna, and Common Council Clerk Marie O. Norwood.

### **Absent**

Mayor Daniel T. Drew, Council Members Bartolotta, Daley, Kasper, Faulkner, Pessina, Berch and Corporation Counsel Daniel B. Ryan.

### **Also Present**

Public Works Director William Russo, Finance Director Carl Erlacher, Director of IT William Oliver, Planning, Conservation, and Development Director William Warner, Water and Sewer Director Guy Russo, Parking Director Geen Thazhampallath, City Attorney Brig Smith, Acting Personnel Director Kathy Morey, Chief of Police William McKenna, Acting Parks and Recreation Director Deb Stanley, Tax Assessor Damon Braasch, Fire Chief Gary Ouellette, Director of Communications Wayne Bartolotta, Director of Human Relations Faith Jackson, Director of Health Joseph Havlicek, MD, Arts Coordinator Stephan Allison, City and Town Clerk Sandra Driska, Emergency Management Director Bruce Driska, Russell Library Director Arthur Meyers, Youth Services Coordinator Justin Carbonella Joseph Samolis Administrative Aide to the Mayor and 3 members of the public.

### **Meeting Called to Order**

The Acting Chair, Deputy Mayor Robert P. Santangelo calls the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. He asks Guy Russo, Director of Water and Sewer to lead the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Call of Meeting Read**

The Call of the meeting is read and accepted. The Acting Chair declares this call a legal call and the meeting a legal meeting.

### **Workshop Opens**

The Acting Chair opens Questions to Directors workshop at 6:05 p.m.

Councilwoman Kleckowski asks for Town Clerk, Sandra Driska. She asks the Town Clerk if she knew what the change in the voting district was; she states that would be the Registrar of Voters. The Council Clerk responds to the query and states to add Crescent Street.

### **Noted for the Record**

Councilman Klattenberg takes his seat at 6:03 p.m.

Councilman Bibisi asks for Bill Warner, Director of Planning, Conservation, and Development. He states you relayed to us on the appropriation of \$75,000, you have extra money and it will not be that. Mr. Warner states yes; he has \$40,000 to go into it and the appropriation can be reduced to \$35,000. Councilman Bibisi states we shouldn't vote for the \$75,000; Mr. Warner responds no, just \$35,000.

### **Noted for the Record**

Councilman Serra takes his seat at 6:04 p.m.

The Chair asks for other questions to other directors.

Councilman Klattenberg states he has would like to address questions to Bill Warner. He asks him to go through the tax abatements that are presented this evening. Mr. Warner states no, that would be the Tax Assessor, Damon Braasch. Councilman Klattenberg asks that the Tax Assessor, Damon Braasch come forward.

### **Noted for the Record**

Councilwoman Salafia takes her seat at 6:05 p.m.

Councilman Klattenberg states there are tax abatement agreements and asks how they came about. Mr. Braasch replies these are agreements allowing for the extension of existing agreements and abatements. There was previous action by the Council to extend the agreements and the State also has a contract that the City enters into and this is the State agreement that needs to be signed. Councilman Klattenberg asks about the financial impact on it. Mr. Braasch responds if the State does not supply the funding it is billed directly to the property owner. It is a zero net loss.

Councilman Serra asks for Guy Russo, Director of Water and Sewer, Bill Oliver, Director of Information Technology and Carl Erlacher, Director of Finance relative to semiannual bills. He states is this the solution because it is Direct Mail Solutions. Is it all set and this will take care of everything. Mr. Russo responds they print the bills and have been doing it for years and we discussed the relationship with purchasing and it was our understanding the City would work with a different firm for direct mail, but it hasn't happened, so we want to keep them. They just print and mail and the intent is finding someone for all City mailings. Mr. Oliver states it just addresses the mailing. Councilman Serra asks what is the solution. Bill states they made hundreds of corrections and he has not received any complaints since the billing and it was implemented. Councilman Serra asks about the discussion. Mr. Oliver responds they are looking at vendors, a single one for all billing and when they get to that stage, they will find someone and do it under one contract. He comments they have provided good service and rates and might be a good company to pursue.

### **Workshop Closes**

The Acting Chair asks for other questions to directors; seeing none, he closes questions to directors' workshop at 6:10 p.m. and asks for a motion to adjourn.

### **Meeting Adjourns**

Councilman Klattenberg moves to adjourn and is seconded by Councilwoman Kleckowski; the vote is called and it is unanimous to approve. The Acting Chair declares the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

MARIE O NORWOOD  
Common Council Clerk